

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 6, 2013

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner  
Administrator  
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

We write to you today in response to the termination letters sent to Medicare Advantage providers in UnitedHealth's network in Ohio. We are hearing from constituents across the state of Ohio who are losing their doctors. This will disrupt seniors' relationships with their physicians as well as interrupt ongoing treatment for those with complex or chronic conditions. It may also make it harder for them to find an in-network physician or create longer wait times, particularly in rural areas.

As you know, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) cuts more than \$200 billion to Medicare Advantage over 10 years. While only 20 percent of the ACA's cuts to Medicare Advantage will have gone into effect by the end of 2014, the Administration masked the impact of those cuts through the use of an \$8.3 billion "demonstration program." Now that plans are starting to feel the full impact of the ACA's cuts, seniors are being affected. In October, UnitedHealth stated that reductions in government funding of Medicare Advantage cannot fully be offset in 2014 by the rest of their business. Since then, they have announced thousands of provider terminations to their network in several states. We are concerned that UnitedHealth's terminations in Ohio are only the tip of the iceberg and that Medicare Advantage plans may exit certain markets entirely. Alternatively, it could force seniors into traditional Medicare, where they may experience higher out-of-pocket costs for lower quality care. This is a stark contrast to President Obama's promise, "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Period."

In Ohio, over 700,000 seniors are enrolled in Medicare Advantage, or about 37 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries. Ninety-percent of those enrolled in Medicare Advantage report that they are satisfied with their plan, and 92 percent report that they are satisfied with their choice of doctors. With this in mind, we ask you to provide additional information on the future of Medicare Advantage in Ohio. Please quantify the payment reductions due to the ACA in Ohio since the enactment of the law through 2017 – when the cuts will be fully phased in – on a per county basis. Additionally, please state how this is expected to affect access to providers across all Medicare Advantage plans and enrollment. Last, we ask you to quantify the expected benefit reductions and increased costs beneficiaries will experience as a result of these cuts.


We look forward to your response.

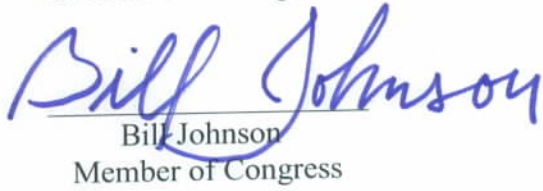
Sincerely,


  
Brad R. Wenstrup  
Member of Congress

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Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

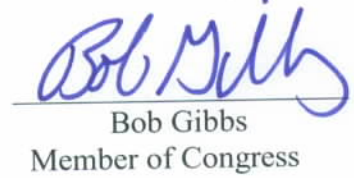
  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

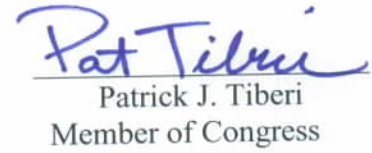
  
Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress

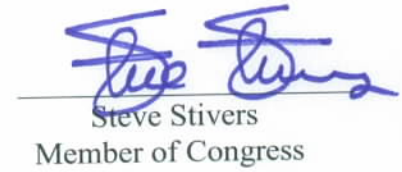
  
Dave Joyce  
Member of Congress

  
James B. Renacci  
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Bob Latta  
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Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress

  
Patrick J. Tiberi  
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Steve Stivers  
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